

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is allowable over the cited references.

The non-final Office Action dated May 3, 2004, indicated that the drawings are objected to; the Specification is objected to for informalities; claims 1-14 and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over *Cassiday et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,419); and claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Cassiday et al.* in view of *Manjunath et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,324,503).

Applicant has amended Figure 2-1 to include reference numeral 270. As the figure now corresponds with the Specification, Applicant requests that the objection be removed.

With respect to the objections to the Specification, Applicant has amended the objected-to paragraphs to include the appropriate patent application numbers and to correspond with the formalized drawings, FIGs. 1-1 through 1-4 and 2-1 through 2-2. Applicant submits that each of the Specification objections has been addressed and overcome, and therefore requests that the objections be removed.

Applicant respectfully traverses each of the prior art rejections because the teaching in the primary '419 reference is far removed from the present invention and there are no issues of patentability relative thereto. To the extent that Section 103(a) has been raised in the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the '419 reference has been misinterpreted.

Applicant respectfully traverses each of the Section 102(b) and Section 103(a) rejections and submits that there is no substantive relationship between the '419 reference and the claimed invention and that a *prima facie* case of rejection has not been presented. A prior art *prima facie* rejection of a claim requires at least a proper presentation of evidence that would allege correspondence between the cited teachings (*e.g.*, from the '419 reference) and each limitation in the claims and also, for Section 103(a), a presentation of evidence of motivation to modify a reference as asserted by the Office Action. However, in connection with the rejections, only general assertions have been made and these assertions are based on citations to the '419 reference that are unrelated to the claimed invention. The instant claim 1, for example, is directed to a plurality of groups where each group has a plurality of data-carrying lines and a clock path adapted to

carry a clock signal for synchronizing digital data carried over the plurality of data-carrying lines. The Office Action fails to identify where the '419 reference teaches a plurality of data-carrying lines in a plurality of groups. The cited Figure 1 of the '419 reference appears to have bundles of a clock signal, frame signal and a single data slice communication link. Moreover, figures 3 and 4 show that only one data line leaves each transmitter circuit and enters each receiver circuit. Further, the Office Action generally provides citations to the '419 clock SL(i) CLK, but none of the citations relate to a clock for synchronizing digital data over the plurality of data-carrying lines. *See* column 2, lines 5-10. The '419 SL(i) CLK controls the latching of the slice data signals from the slice data single communication link for each bundle. Thus, the Office Action fails to identify how the '419 configuration even generally relates to the claimed invention and/or its environment having groupings of a plurality of data-carrying lines.

As another example of this apparent misinterpretation of the '419 reference, claim 1 is directed to a second module adapted to align data collected for each group and overcome any skew-caused misalignments between data concurrently transferred in different groups. As discussed above, the Office Action fails to identify a reference that teaches the claimed plurality of data-carrying lines and the claimed clock path, thus, the cited '419 reference cannot teach the claimed alignment by the second module. Without a presentation of correspondence to each of the claimed limitations, the Section 102(b) and Section 103(a) rejections are improper and cannot be maintained. Applicant accordingly requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

With respect to claims 14 and 15, the proposed modifications of the '419 reference are improper because the combination of the cited references would undermine the operation of the '419 reference. The MPEP states that when a proposed modification would render the teachings being modified unsatisfactory for their intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). *See*, MPEP § 2143.01. The '419 reference is directed to high-speed data transmission, as evidenced by the title. This high-speed transmission link would fail to operate due to an overload of noise if the '419 transmitters and receivers were to act reciprocally as suggested by the Office Action. Moreover, the reverse data flow directly contradicts the data flow indicated in figure 1 and would require the data source to be a transceiver. With respect to claim 14, the Office Action suggests adding a feedback loop

(for bad speech frames), which sends a low memory encoded packet or a memory-less packet as a next packet as taught by the '503 reference. *See* col. 8, lines 48-51, and col. 9, lines 6-10. Both the purpose and operation of the '503 feedback loop are unrelated to any aspect of the '419 reference and would not function as any meaningful part of the '419 configuration. To suggest modifying the '419 teachings in such unrelated and destructive manners is untenable. Thus, the proposed modifications are improper and Applicant requests that the Section 103(a) rejection be removed.

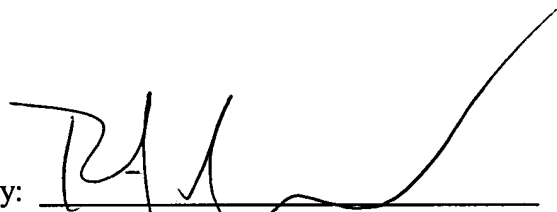
As each of the rejections is based on this apparent misinterpretation of the '419 reference, the rejection of each of Applicant's pending claims should be removed.

In view of the remarks above, Applicant believes that each of the rejections has been overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the agent overseeing the application file, Mr. Peter Zawilski, of Philips Corporation at (408) 474-9063.

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